

# Bavarian News

Vol 3. Nr. 6

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

March 21, 2007

## MONEY SENSE

# Credit card transactions eyed at AAFES

by **BILYANA ATOVA**  
Staff writer

An increase in the number of unauthorized credit card users at local AAFES facilities has prompted local exchange officials to try to educate the public.

"When you use a credit card, you are supposed to be the authorized user," said Chris Litch, the visual merchandising manager for Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, and Vilseck's

facilities. "Recently, we have had lots of family members attempting to use credit cards that did not belong to them, and that's against regulation. We can't accept them."

Litch said that in most instances, the family members were using the spouse's or parent's cards with the cardholder's permission but that sales clerks are required to decline the transaction if the consumer is not the owner of the card.

"If you plan to let someone in your

household use your credit card, you can ask your credit card company for additional cards for authorized users, with your wife or child's name on them, or the person should have a special power of attorney," he said.

Litch said that AAFES sales clerks are required to check the signature on the electronic keypad with the signature on the back of the card and then check the military/photo ID photo. He said this is a checks-and-balance system to protect consumers

from credit card fraud.

"It gets even easier for the thief if the credit card is not signed," he said. "(The thief) simply signs it himself."

And while AAFES sales clerks may be more vigilant about checking for card signatures in on post facilities, Litch said card fraud is also a problem consumers have to contend with off post.

"On post in Europe may be safer than some bases in the United States, but the problem is when you go off

### DID YOU KNOW ?

Charge and credit card fraud may be as high as \$500 million a year  
*Dept. of Homeland Security*

post," he said.

"If you lose your card, someone can take it to an off post grocery store, for example, where they don't check

See **CREDIT CARD** page 17

## Farewell, Community mourns student, friend

Staff report

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr mourns a friend and family member with the passing of John E. Watsek.

The 17-year old Watsek died March 5 from injuries sustained when the car he was driving collided with another privately owned vehicle near the town of Kaltenbrunn on the B299.

Watsek is survived by his parents, Dwane (the former U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr DPW) and Nathalie Watsek, and his sister, Elizabeth Watsek.

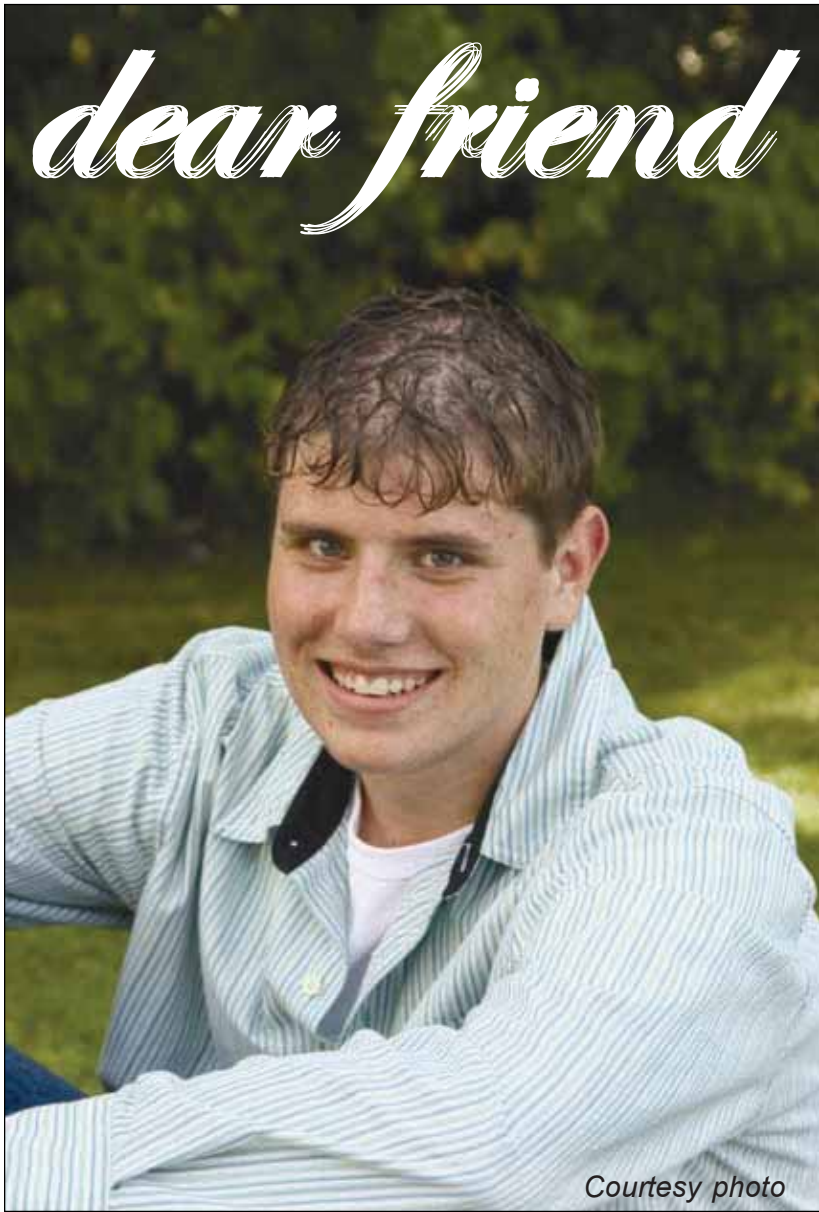
Watsek was a much-loved and

respected senior at Vilseck High School.

Well known as a loyal, dedicated, and compassionate person who loved to pull practical jokes, Watsek was honored March 16 during a celebration of life ceremony hosted by VHS students and faculty.

Musical tributes, funny and heartwarming anecdotes by staff and friends, and poems were read during the ceremony.

Students and teachers also talked about how John changed and continues to change the lives of those all around him. John will forever be missed.



Courtesy photo

(At left) Friends and students set up a memorial to John (above) at Vilseck High School March 6.



Photo by Sue Bluhm

## 320T gas grills pose fire hazard, recalled

Special to the Bavarian News

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Weber-Stephen Products Company of Palatine, Ill. is voluntarily recalling gas grills for fire hazard.

**Name of product:** WeberR GenesisR 320T Series Gas Grills (Made in USA)

**Units:** About 14,000

**Hazard:** The gas hose attached to the side burner of the grill can crack or break off during shipping, causing it to leak gas when in use, which poses a fire hazard to consumers.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Weber has received 49 reports of hose damage or gas leaks. No injuries have been reported.

**Description:** The recall involves the WeberR GenesisR 320T Series gas grills which are designed to be used with either natural gas or with liquid propane gas tanks, and are equipped with a flush-mounted side burner accessory.

The gas hose is made of stainless steel. The grills are sold in stainless steel and in black, blue or green porcelain enamel. All serial numbers begin with the prefix "DI".

The model and serial number are located on the tank blocker/drip pan holder located inside the storage cart.

See **GRILLS** page 17

## UNIT NEWS

# Soldier outwits, outplays, outlasts battle buddies

by **JODIWARD**  
Staff writer

After 16 grueling weeks of competition, the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment's Regimental Support Squadron has named their ultimate Survivor.

Starting back in October, the squadron's executive officer, Maj. Michael Phillips began the RSS Survivor Competition, a spin off of the hugely successful CBS reality show. The event would include the types of tough challenges viewers would expect to see on the Survivor television series, alliances among Soldiers, and an immunity idol named Buster.

Not familiar with the show? The game is simple. Like the television show, two teams must outwit, outplay, outlast, each other by winning immunity or having the fewest number of votes

cast against you by team members.

Players must, however, be careful about who they send packing. After the teams merge, a jury of the player's castoff members form. At the end of the game, the castoffs vote for or against the finalists--the RSS Ultimate Survivor.

The competition started with 31 contenders, grouped into four teams; each named for a rank in the German military.

The Battalionskommandeurs (Battalion Commanders,) Kompaniechefs (Company Commanders,) Zugfuerers (Platoon Leaders,) and Oberfeldwebels (Master Sergeants) competed in team competitions, combining physical training and mental prowess.

"The first week we did a three mile get-to-know-your-team' run.

(The teammates) couldn't be more than five meters apart, so they were forced to run at the pace of the slowest Soldier," said Phillips.

Another team event, Week 7's "Flack Vest

Litter Carry," included team members carrying one another around a two and a half mile course in what Phillips calls their "full battle rattle," otherwise known as body armor.

"I think this was where everyone had the most fun," said Phillips. "Plus, in combat - when you're in Iraq and under fire and evacuating casualties - this event will come in handy," he said, recalling his most recent tour in Iraq in which his DFAC was bombed.

"You're running with litters, trying to get injured Soldiers to (forward line ambulances) and you never know what size people you'll have to move," he said.

"We had an S6 who was well over six feet tall that got injured and moving him was hard, but you have to do it and so you've gotta be in shape. You've got to be physically conditioned to be in combat," said Phillips.

"It is battle-focused PT, with a little esprit de corps thrown in," he said, explaining the focus of the RSS Survivor competition's events.

And just like the reality show, each week, losing teams had to vote someone "off the island."

See **SMITH** page 17



Capt. Tim Sharp, who came in third place, "out-PT'd a lot of folks," and "inspired professionalism," said Maj. Michael Phillips.



## Q&amp;A

Who do you think is the most *influential* woman in history?



**Anna Maynard**  
"Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell for her efforts in anti-slavery, medicine, and women's rights."

**Pfc. Brandon Carswell**  
"Rosa Parks... Her actions did a lot for the civil rights movement, and her courage is very admirable."



**Debbie Rose**  
"Mary, the mother of Jesus. The message and ministry of Jesus has affected the entire world."

**Staff Sgt. Allen Collier**  
"Queen Isabella of Spain, who without taking a chance on Columbus, the Americas wouldn't have been discovered as early as they were."



**Michelle Mock**  
"J.K. Rowling. There has never been anyone to inspire the masses to read as she has. Harry Potter created a common ground for generations, despite cultural differences."

**Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Camp**  
"Condoleezza Rice, the first black female to hold her office. (She shows) that if you work hard and keep your focus on the Lord, you can reach your goals."



**Natalie Smith**  
"Condoleezza Rice. She directly impacts our world daily. She is an example of the positions women can aspire to."

**Sgt. Jonathan Mock**  
"Marie Curie discovered how radiology worked thereby furthering the medical field and saving countless lives."



# As we mourn a friend's passing, pay close attention to safety rules

Stepping outside of my usual practice of writing about three topics, this week I'll only talk about one.

Our community suffered a tragic wakeup call this month when we lost one of our best and brightest—John Watsek, the son of Dwane, my former Director of Public Works (DPW) and Nathalie (who worked in the Financial Management Division of MWR). John died in a traffic accident on highway B299.

So who was John? Well, he was a friend. He grew up in Grafenwoehr as his father served in both active duty military and civilian jobs in the 535th Engineer Company and the DPW. He was active in the Boy Scouts (he was an Eagle Scout), student offices, Student-2-Student, Club Beyond, and the high school and German soccer clubs.

More importantly he marched to his own drum. He wore kilts, joined the cross country team to get in shape for soccer, and was well



on his way to college having already been accepted to Gonzaga University.

Undoubtedly John's most telling characteristic was his ability to seek out those in need and make a difference in their lives. Whether it was the young Cub Scouts from Pack 240, high school friends needing someone to talk to, or in death the gift of life he provided by donating his organs, John made a difference.

He lived his life. It may have only been 17 years, but it was 17 years of a full life.

Finally, on a more personal note, he regularly watched my two boys.

Arriving wearing a tie, comparing the size of his feet to theirs, or even taking them to Burger King instead of eating Jean's chili, my boys were always excited when John came to stay with them.

When someone so young dies, it always hurts. When it is someone so talented and full of life like John it hurts even more. So what can we learn from this senseless tragedy?

Well the title of this column is Safety and Attention to Detail. I am in no position to say that John was unsafe, I wasn't at the accident site and don't know. But I do know he paid

attention to detail in all that he did.

Unfortunately, members of our community are not paying attention to detail, and if left unchecked they are likely to suffer a senseless tragedy.

Completely apart from John's accident, we have been conducting awareness campaigns with our military police. On one day we issued over 20 citations to motorists who were not wearing seatbelts.

Further, we have issued more than 30 DUIs this year as compared to eight last year. People (Soldiers, civilians, and family members) are just not getting the message.

I ask you once again to stop and think before you drive. Wear your seatbelts, have a designated driver, take it easy on the roads, and do not walk by someone not following the standard because if you do, you have just reinforced the new lower standard.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

# Ready to enjoy Germany from the seat of a motorcycle? Learn the rules of the road

The updated AER 190-1, Chapter 5, Section V, paragraph 5-22 through 5-25 dated Dec. 4,

2006, lists the requirements for riding a motorcycle in USAREUR.

Understand that there have been some changes to riding rules in Germany so it is imperative that everyone take a look at this regulation.

The summer riding season is just around the corner and many of you are anxiously awaiting the first warm day to dust off the motorcycle and get it ready for



seeing some of the great sights that are but a short distance away. Hold off and let's think about this for a minute. Inspecting the motorcycle for safe operation is just a small piece of what you need to think about.

Remember, motorcycling is a motor skill that deteriorates with both an increase in your age and non-use.

Don't make your first trip a 500 mile one on a two-day weekend with the wife on back. Take the time to reacquire yourself with the handling characteristics of your machine. If you recently purchased a new motorcycle, take the time to take a MSF course that we offer here and at Hohenfels even if your completion card is still valid. It's a great way to find out how your motorcycle handles and

more importantly, the correct action to take when an exciting moment occurs out on the road.

New to Germany? Take the time to seek out riders that have lived here for a while and spend a couple of hours with them on local roads.

The Army, as a whole, has already suffered eight motorcycle fatalities this fiscal year. Act responsibly and respect the traffic laws of our host country.

*John M. Burns  
Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr*

# Military to civilian can be a tricky transition

**JACEY ECKHART**  
*On the Homefront*

Every time I go to a military retirement ceremony, I find myself hoping that the guest of honor can keep his Inigo Montoya tucked away for one more day. It ain't pretty when Inigo rears his sad little head, but it happens all too often. This week, I've even been wondering whether that astronaut charged with attempted kidnapping and attempted murder has her own Inigo to blame.

For those of you who have spent your lives studying rocket science instead of watching countless showings of "The Princess Bride," the Inigo Montoya I'm talking about is a master swordsman who devotes his entire life to finding the six-fingered man who murdered his father. In his elaborate revenge fantasy, he plans to say, "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die."

The guy has a purpose. But once the six-fingered man is good and dead, Inigo is a little lost. He is a lot lost. What do you do with the next 40 or 50 years once you've achieved your life's ambition? What happens when the thing that you ARE is taken away from you? Or you give it up?

In normal military life, retirees often get lost much like Inigo Montoya. They've spent their whole lives pursuing this one ambition — this one career. Then right in the prime of life, they leave it. I have seen command master chiefs deflate at their retirements as if they lost 20

pounds just standing at the podium. I've seen a submarine captain crumple after walking across the brow of his boat for the last time.

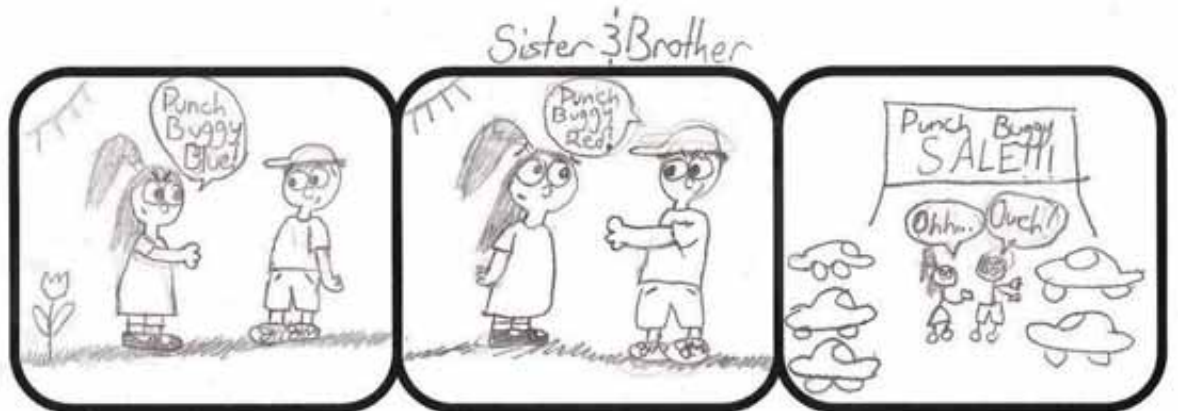
Despite the Transition Assistance Program provided by the military, retirees in their 40s often lose their emotional footing for the first couple of years after leaving the service. One retired chief told me that it was as if the foundation under his house sank 10 inches on one side so that all heavy things tipped away from the walls. He said it took a couple of years to get level again.

That's why the only surprise I had at the scandal involving

astronaut Lisa Nowak was that it hadn't happened sooner. Not because Nowak is a woman and not because NASA should revamp their psychological screening, but because of the Inigo Montoya factor.

Is it really any surprise that someone as accomplished as an astronaut fell from such heights to such depths? After a 10-year wait to go into space, astronaut Lisa Nowak, 43, completed her mission and returned last fall. Then things reportedly fell apart. A few weeks ago, this mother of three separated from her husband after

See **WHAT HAPPENS** page 17



**Cartoon by Sofia Dinges**  
Age 10, Grafenwoehr Elementary School

## Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

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# AFAP conference yields results

## Shuttle service, more parking local perks of participation

by BILYANA ATOVA  
Staff writer

“Can anyone affect change in the Army?”

Absolutely!” said U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Army Family Action Plan coordinator Kay Simpkins. “All you need to do is come up with an idea.”

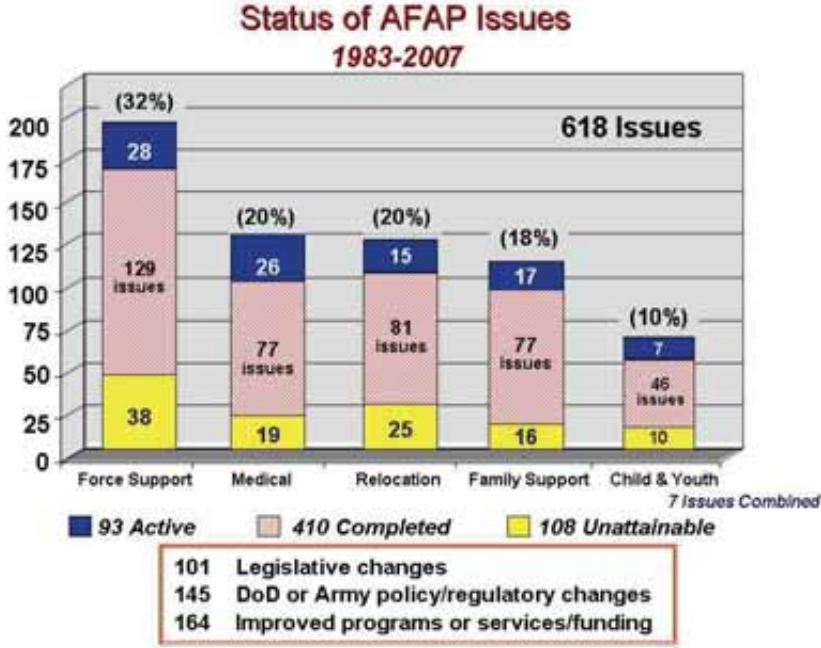
AFAP is a program that allows community members to voice issues about their quality of life, not just within their local communities, but throughout the Army as a whole. It also allows participants to develop and recommend viable solutions to those issues.

Members of the USAG Grafenwoehr community were asked to identify problems that affect Army quality of life through issue sheets and issue boxes located in various facilities within the garrison through March 15.

These issues are being collected and prioritized for the April 3-4 conference by delegates chosen from the community.

Last month, there were 54 different issues collected, said Kay Simpkins. Approximately 90 percent of AFAP issues are worked at the local level where they help improve and enhance Army communities.

“All local issues have a time frame,” said Vicky Cunningham, USAG Grafenwoehr AFAP coordinator, “a deadline that is about a month.”



Issues that cannot be resolved at the local level will then be forwarded to Installation Management Command Europe or Headquarters Department of the Army for resolution. Some issues may result in the initiation of new programs, changes to Army policy, or even legislative changes.

The AFAP program involves Soldiers (active and reserve), retirees, civilians, and family members.

### Past AFAP successes?

In the 20-year history of AFAP conferences, the program has resulted

in more than 83 changes in legislation, 150 Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense policies, and more than 140 programs and services initiated or improved.

A few examples of programs that were born from AFAP conferences include:

- Family Readiness Groups,
- Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers,
- Army Family Team Building,
- Thrift Savings Plan,
- SGLI being raised from \$50,000 to \$250,000,

■ and more recently, Tour Stabilization Program for families with seniors in high school.

Of last year’s 139 issues for the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels communities, 134 were successfully resolved. A few recent local enhancements include the installations of sliding glass doors at the Vilseck PX, extra parking near the Vilseck Elementary School, and on-post shuttles operating all each of the three communities.

### What about this year?

At this year’s conference, issues will be reviewed and discussed by subject specific groups, using small group solving techniques and brain storming.

Members of the community who would like to volunteer with AFAP are invited to apply to become either delegates (working the issues at the conference) or FRTIs (facilitators, recorders, transcribers, or issue support persons) for the conference.

“People have to take a little responsibility,” said Vicky Cunningham, “so if you are interested in a position please call us as soon as possible.”

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer with AFAP, contact Vicky Cunningham or Kay Simpkins at DSN 476-3275 / 2650, CIV 09662-83-3273/2650 or e-mail: [vicky.s.cunningham@us.army.mil](mailto:vicky.s.cunningham@us.army.mil) / [kay.simpkins@us.army.mil](mailto:kay.simpkins@us.army.mil).

## Spotlight on Education



Name: Joyce Patz

What grade/subject do you teach? 3rd grade

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pa.

How long have you been a teacher? 15.4 years

What do you like best about teaching? The children!

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Respect your classmates as well as your teachers. To err is human, to forgive, divine!

# Local motorcycle group revs up for new season

Commentary by BOB MCGAFFIN  
USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Officer

Motorcyclist enthusiasts often speak of the ‘rush’ they get from being in nature unencumbered by a glass and steel cage with the sun in their face.

Without a doubt, it is an enjoyable sport. But at the same time, it can also be a dangerous one and the following points of discussion will help all riders better enjoy their mode of travel.

In addition to a rigorous MSF training program, there is an informal group of riders called the Oberfalz German/American M/C Association who introduce motorcyclists to the joys and potential pitfalls of riding in Europe.

The program consists of a number of local German and American motorcyclists who have extensive experience and knowledge of the local area and the desire to acquaint new personnel to European riding. These M/C Association members consider themselves stakeholders in the preservation of riding privileges of the American motorcycle operator in Germany.

The inaugural 2007 riding season meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, at the Thai restaurant which is located across the street from the Grafenwoehr City swimming pool (Schwimmbad). All motorcycle riders, civilian and military, and their dependents are encouraged to attend, enjoy fine dining, and share in the comradeship of fellow motorcyclists.

Nobody likes to think about



File photo by Sue Bluhm

**Bob McGaffin teaches the motorcycle safety course at Vilseck Army Airfield last year. The course is designed to ensure riders enjoy safe riding in Europe.**

injuries and certainly death shouldn’t be something that occupies the mind on an everyday basis. The simple fact is that many accidents that involve motorcycles result in at a minimum, a very serious injury. The odds of surviving an accident become increasingly poor when speed, as a factor, is increased. Avoiding accidents is an achievable goal.

Safety engineering incorporated into today’s high-tech motorcycles

becomes irrelevant when the operator exercises poor judgment or lacks operating proficiency. A collision with another moving vehicle, or fixed object, will almost ensure that you will not be lucky enough to sustain just a “serious injury”.

Every Soldier and DAC knows the term “Composite Risk Management”. Applying it to motorcycling is like using the

thought process of minimizing risk in combat, sports, operating dangerous tools, and almost every physical activity we take part in on a daily basis. Motorcycling is similar to all of these.

Most motorcycles are very high-powered for their weight, not designed for impact, and require strict adherence to the manufacturer’s maintenance regime to offer even a modicum of safety.

Add in marginal personal protective equipment, worn/hardened tires, incorrect tire air pressure, and most importantly, a lack of operator skill and risk factors rise to unacceptable levels. Repairing the mechanical defects is an uncomplicated, reasonably simple process. Fixing the mental process is not.

You can liken motorcycling to combat. Inadequate training, marginal equipment, unfamiliar terrain, poor mental attitude, and failure to adhere to tactics will likely result in failure on the field of combat.

Inadequate training, poor mental attitude, failure to obey posted speed limits, a motorcycle in disrepair, unfamiliar roads, and alcohol or prescription drugs impairing mental acuity will greatly enhance the likelihood of a serious accident, and we haven’t mentioned the actions of the car driver who doesn’t see you, infringes on your lane, or just doesn’t respect a motorcyclist. Can you see a problem here?

USAREUR, subordinate commands, and garrison commanders consider operating a motorcycle a privilege. Privileges can be suspended, modified or removed as deemed necessary to preserve assets (you). We certainly don’t want to even consider such a restriction, so join the club, consider the factors listed above before you ride and “Stay Safe”.

Bob McGaffin is the USAG-Grafenwoehr Safety Officer and has 36 years of riding experience. He is also the MSF rider coach trainer and retired military.



## HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT

BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

Dear Demetrius,  
How do you feel about coffee and caffeine products? I drink about 4-6 cups a day. I consider it a social activity because my co-workers and I get together during breaks to “sip and talk”. Is there a

problem with this, and if so can you explain what it is?  
Signed,

“Another Cup Please”  
Danielle

Dear Danielle,  
I would not recommend taking in more than three cups of

coffee a day. Try to reduce your current intake by one cup per day. This gradual decrease will discourage withdrawal symptoms like headaches, irritability, and fatigue.

Caffeine takes about 15-20 minutes to enter the blood stream and can last up to three and a half hours. Avoid taking in cup after cup.

Caffeine products like coffee

cause your body’s energy system to switch gears from your energy stores to the caffeine. You sip it down, your body gets a “high,” and then you begin to “fall”, kind of like a roller coaster (or like the sugar-high kids get). So you get a high and fall back down to an energy state lower than you had before -- the coffee cycle.

Danielle, you are in the front

car of that caffeine roller coaster. You and your co-workers should try to reduce your coffee intake and eventually replace that coffee pot with a water fountain.

Demetrius

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to [usagnews@EUR.army.mil](mailto:usagnews@EUR.army.mil). Demetrius Willis is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.



# Dragoon Thunder



Soldiers of 2-2SCR Eagle Co.'s 3d Platoon lay in support by fire position as the rest of the platoon moves tactically through the woodline toward their objective.

## Realistic battlefield training preps 2SCR for call of duty

Story and photos by JODI WARD  
Staff writer

**Day 4 of Operation Cougar Thunder:** Cold morning rain pours down as the men of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Eagle Company lumber out of their Strykers onto Hohenfels' muddy training grounds.

The men gather around their respective platoon leader and observer controller for a safety brief before the company heads out for the day's mission- a live-fire training exercise.

Operation Cougar Thunder is part of the larger Operation Dragoon Thunder, the Regiment's first major training exercise since its official re-stationing in Vilseck this past September.

Squadrons rotated through the training, staying out in the field for two weeks, conducting raids, search and attack missions, live fire exercises, and interacting with civilians, local leaders, and security forces.

The first phase of the exercise began Jan. 10 when the regiment's first squadron deployed to Hohenfels' Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

Operation Dragoon Thunder ended March 9 after the last of the four squadrons completed its training.

During 2d Squadron's rotation earlier this month, the Eagle company commander yells out last minute instructions as the men mount their Strykers and rumble off into the distance.

After a bumpy 10 minute ride, the

objective comes into view - a black, one-level cement block building surrounded by opposing forces (life-sized pop up targets).

On command, Soldiers pour out of their Strykers, moving quickly to surround the objective.

Booming mortar fire prepares the objective for the main effort, while snipers lying on a distant hill take out the opposing forces, clearing a path for remaining Soldiers to storm the building.

"The basics of the live fire are very similar to what is done down range," said 2-2SCR Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Travis Cox.

"The terrain and situation drive how we fire in Iraq. Our live fire exercise gives everyone a solid understanding of the basics so that we can operate off of that common understanding."

2SCR Spokesman Maj. Jon Pendell said the purpose of Operation Dragoon Thunder was to conduct situational training exercises, in which

company-size groups were put into certain situations that they would find on the battlefield.

Cox explained why this was important.

"The significance of this operation is that the squadron was able to conduct training for the current operating environment on new terrain against opposing forces we have never faced," he said.

"But also, this training exercise is about team building and

developing standard operating procedures at the team and squad level," said Cox. "This operation allowed the squadron to 'stretch its legs' and capabilities."

Pendell said the completion of Operation Dragoon Thunder makes the regiment deployable.

"Really, this is getting us trained and ready to deploy when called upon," he said.

Though the regiment is not scheduled to deploy, they are, as their motto says, "toujours prêt" or "always ready" to answer the call of duty.



Once inside the objective, Soldiers from 2-2SCR Eagle Co., 3rd Platoon, including Spc. Jovan Torres, clear rooms during Operation Cougar Thunder.

## Jones takes reins of Reserve's 3747<sup>th</sup>

by BILYANA ATOVA  
Staff writer

The U.S. Army Reserve 3747<sup>th</sup> Multifunctional Training Brigade-Europe change of command ceremony took place in Grafenwoehr, March 11.

Lt. Col. Melvin Jones Jr. assumed command from Col. Morgan M. Gray.

The 3747<sup>th</sup> MFTB-E is the oldest Army Reserve unit in Europe. For over 50 years, the unit has prepared Soldiers for successful careers in the active and reserve components by conducting officer and enlisted military education courses.

"It is important to understand exactly what 3747<sup>th</sup> MFTB-E does for us here in Europe, the whole Army, and the nation" said Brig. Gen. David Perkins, commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Army Joint Multinational Training Command. "It is an honor to have them here at the Grafenwoehr JMTC."

The ceremony was highlighted by the traditional passing of the colors from Gray to Perkins, symbolizing the relinquishment of command, and from Perkins to Jones, symbolizing his assumption of command.

During his remarks, Perkins noted the legacy that Gray left in the 3747<sup>th</sup> MFTB-E. He said that "the unit touches hundreds and thousand of leaders' lives as it molds them and trains them to be exceptional leaders of character, leaders who lead from the front. This legacy will continue," said Perkins, "and it will continue to generate well trained and well led leaders."

Gray thanked the brigade Soldiers for all they accomplished, their dedication, and service during his tenure.



Photo by Paula Guzman

Incoming commander Lt. Col. Melvin Jones Jr. cuts the 3747<sup>th</sup> welcome cake with his wife during the change of command reception March 11.

"Officers, NCOs, and enlisted Soldiers are what make this unit a success" said Gray. "I have been just the leader."

He challenged the Soldiers to maintain the high standards they have achieved and to "give Lt. Col. Jones all the support you have given me," Gray said.

Jones graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1985 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in general engineering from USMA and a master of business administration in military management from Touro International University.

See 3747<sup>th</sup> page 17

## Arts Guild presents 'The Odd Couple'

Special to the Bavarian News

The Bavarian Arts Guild will present its spring production of "The Odd Couple" (the female version), by Neil Simon, Friday through Monday.

The performances are at 7:30 p.m. at the Vilseck High School Multi-Purpose Room.

The play is the official entry in the 2007 U.S. Army Europe Tournament of Plays, the Academy Awards for USAREUR theater groups.

The judges will attend and assess the play during the Monday

performance. George Linka is the director.

The Bavarian Arts Guild is a non-profit organization. Cast and crew members donate time and energy to do what they love - bring our community a taste of the arts.

Money earned goes directly back into productions in the form of advertisement, costumes, lighting, music, script rentals, and various other production costs. The BAG is grateful to all the members and components of the community for the support. Hope to see you at the show!

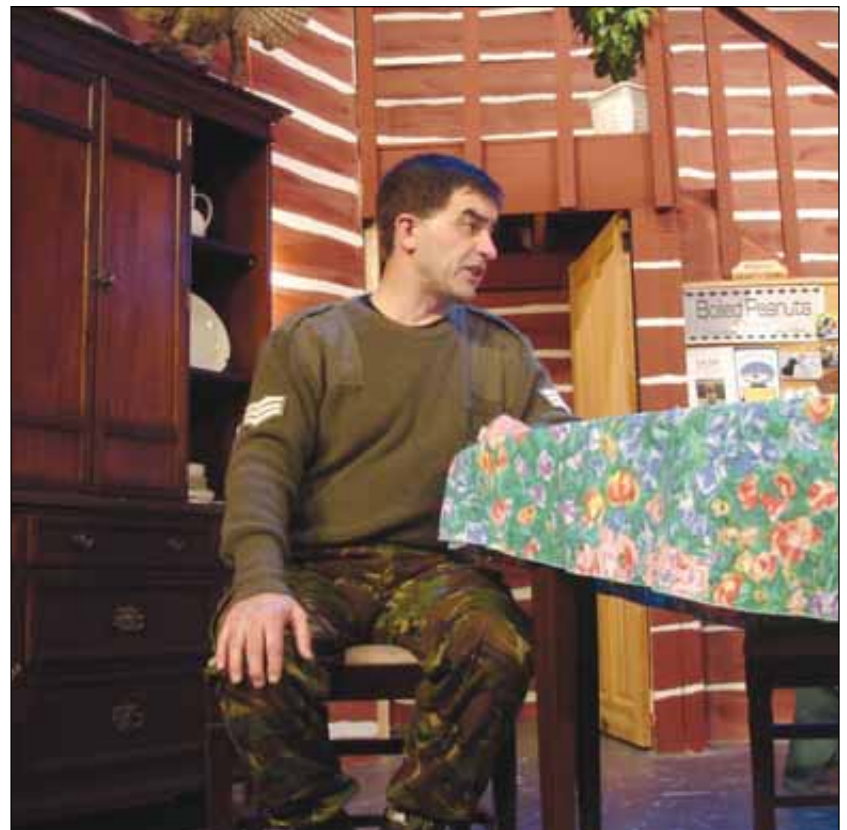


Photo courtesy of BAG

The Bavarian Arts Guild performed "The Foreigner," a comedy that won several awards at last year's "Academy Awards" for USAREUR theaters. Director George Linka (above), starred in the play.



## St. Paddy Partners

Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle awards Vilseck Mayor Hans-Martin Schertl and Grafenwoehr Mayor Helmuth Waechter (center) coins for last place in the sack race during the garrison St. Patrick's Day party March 15.

Photo by Franz Zeilmann



# Follow ‘the plan’ for healthy, happy families

The “Boys of Summer” are back as the Hohenfels High School baseball team began their spring training last week, and that got me thinking about the most important teams in our community—our Army families.



You know, April is both the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. So now is the time for our

community families to begin their own spring training in preparation for our kid focused season.

Sure, we had a good year last year, but we can do even better this year! We made some smart PCS acquisitions over the winter and even picked up a few promising rookie dads about nine months after their last deployment.

The Hohenfels Community is rallying all of our community fathers and encouraging them to join our team to prevent child abuse. With the stress of deployments and family separations, protecting the well-being of our children is a critical and challenging mission.

The best team for our children is a strong, loving family unit. And, dads, you are indispensable to your children and your family team!

So men, here’s the game plan:

**Take a Time-Out.** Check your stress. When things are tense at work, take time to give yourself a break.

You can regain a sense of control and de-stress by listening to music on the way home from work or stopping at the gym for a quick workout.

Do your best to reduce your tension before you interact with your children.

**Put on Your Game Face.** Communicate with your children calmly and clearly. Understand what

typical behavior is for your children at different ages so that you can respond to their needs. Spend time each day playing and talking with your children.

**Cheer Them On.** Respect and support your family. Find time to keep your marital relationship happy and thriving.

Pay attention to your spouse by going out on regular dates and building lasting couple memories.

For your children, show up to their sports and academic events. Let them know that Dad is their biggest fan.

Whatever your duty assignment here at Hohenfels, I call on you to do your part to keep your family and our

community a place where your child can grow into a healthy, happy future.

Many community resources are available to support our families and protect our children.

Contact the Family Advocacy Program at Army Community Service DSN 466-4680 or e-mail the Family Advocacy manager, Brandi Smith, LMSW at [brandi.g.smith@us.army.mil](mailto:brandi.g.smith@us.army.mil) for assistance. Now let’s take the field!

*Lt. Col. James Matheson  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Hohenfels*

## Annual exercise hones crisis response capability

Story and photo by KAREN PARRISH  
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

Sirens, bullhorns and the squeal of radio feedback echoed through the center of U.S. Army Garrison, Hohenfels, March 10 as Spring Fox ‘07, the post’s annual force protection exercise, transformed the quiet streets into a teeming crisis response site.

Capt. Derek Wilson, USAG Hohenfels provost marshal, described the overall scenario, which started at about 9 a.m.

“There was a simulated explosion on post,” he said. “The initial two military police patrols secured the scene. Then the German fire department arrived and I arrived as the onsite commander.”

“Our job then was to provide a cordon, keep the area safe and prevent people from coming in,” said Wilson. “Once the host nation law enforcement authorities arrive, it’s their show and we provide support.”

German police and firefighters took charge of the scene, determined the extent of the damage and injuries and worked with German Red Cross members to evacuate and treat “victims.”

Meanwhile, German and military police quickly determined that the “explosion” was caused by improperly discarded ammunition.

Military working dog teams checked the area for secondary explosives and found none. Shortly after noon, the German and U.S. authorities agreed there was no further imminent danger.

Lt. Col. James Matheson, U. S. Army Garrison Hohenfels commander, said host nation support is key to emergency response in the garrison.

“We get wonderful cooperation from our Bavarian hosts,” he said. “We have over 250 local national first responders here today ... we couldn’t ask for any better from our host nation.”

Petra Boxhorn was part of a German Red Cross team that applied moulage (mock injuries) to the “victims,” served as role players and also



**Simulated victims rush to a German firefighter who has responded to an explosion in the SORT facility. The scenario took place near the hazardous materials storage area, which triggered a release of chemical agents as part of Hohenfels’ force protection exercise Spring Fox ‘07. The event involved about 40 role players and more than 200 host nation emergency responders.**

observed the exercise.

“This is important to us to train,” she said. “We also do an exercise like this every year, and it helps us to prepare for accidents, or things that happen on the street every day.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald L. Battle said Spring Fox ‘07 highlighted the cooperation between USAG Hohenfels residents and local German authorities.

“Hohenfels is a close-knit family. You know all the people in the neighborhood, in the surrounding communities. We have a close working relationship,” he said. “And the troops

and the leadership here are very involved; you can see that by their participation today. You can see the caliber of troops we have here. They consistently train, and they did an outstanding job today.”

Bob Balcerzak, an antiterrorism specialist for U.S. Army, Europe’s operations directorate, led the evaluation team overseeing the exercise. He said the scenario achieved what the annual exercises, mandatory for all garrisons, are designed to do: stress the system, and create conditions that require robust host nation response.

“We’ve accomplished what we set out to accomplish,” he said. “The important thing is getting everybody in the right place in the right time to get us through a crisis situation.”

Balcerzak added that the exercises, along with the regular planning each USAREUR garrison conducts with host nation authorities, ensure communities can respond effectively in an emergency.

“Our ability to respond jointly with the host nation is at a high standard. It is these exercises that allow us to continue to hone those response skills even more,” he said.

## WWII POW visits son in Hohenfels

Special to the Bavarian News

Donald Voglesong was a 19-year-old Army corporal of the 106th Infantry Division when he was captured during World War II by enemy forces at Schoenberg, Belgium.

He was one of approximately 7,000 American Soldiers who were captured at that time.

Voglesong’s Nazi captors transported him and two of his buddies—all of whom shared the hometown of English, Indiana—by train to a prisoner of war camp at Bad Orb, a small village just east of Frankfurt.

He spent the remaining four and half months of World War II at the Bad Orb POW camp until the Nazi surrender. There he lost much of his body weight and spent recovery time in a London hospital after his release.

More than half a century later, Donald experienced a much more pleasant visit ... with his son, Army veteran and Hohenfels Safety Office Manager Dan Voglesong.

The 81-year-old Voglesong visited his son in December, touring several World War II key locations.

During a visit to Schoenberg, Belgium, he saw the memorial to the U.S. engineer Soldiers who died defending the nearby city of St. Vith, and visited the memorials to the U.S. Army prisoners murdered by the Waffen SS Nazi soldiers at Ligneuville and Malmédy.

“He was visibly moved with sadness,” said Dan.

Being at the battleground reminded Donald of seeing a young teenage German soldier dead, lying on the ground, with no signs of injury and

looking as if he were just asleep. He said he remembered thinking that this young boy had a family who would never see him again.

They then visited the Bastogne Historical Center and U.S. memorial for the Battle of the Bulge victory at Bastogne, where Donald received a free admission as a Bulge veteran. They also visited Luxembourg’s American and German military cemeteries.

At the U.S. military cemetery, he visited the gravesite of General George S. Patton, Jr. who Donald said he admired for his courage and leadership during the Battle of the Bulge. Patton’s 3rd Army relieved the surrounded 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division at Bastogne, which stopped the German attack in Belgium.

After touring Luxembourg, they returned to Germany to visit the U.S./German Federal Republic Peace Memorial.

“I feel that I needed to take my 81-year-old father to these sites where he fought and survived,” said Dan. “Maybe it was like the lead character in the movie ‘Saving Private Ryan’ who returned to the U.S. military cemetery to visit the brave men who died so young and did not have a chance to live to maturity?”

“Maybe that is why I also volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army, since my father suffered so much back then in World War II,” said Dan.

“I feel even closer to my father after visiting his World War II battlefield. He never spoke about his war experiences when I was young, only recently,” explained Dan.

Donald took time to experience the Bavarian lifestyle and customs with Dan during the visit.



Courtesy photo

**Six youth and one adult attended the Catholic Confirmation Retreat in Rome Feb. 16-21. Retreat participants included Hohenfels and Garmisch community members who attended the confirmation classes that started in September. The retreat consisted of classes, prayer, and the history of the Catholic Church. The group attended the papal blessing Feb. 18 at St. Peter’s Square in The Vatican and were mentioned by Pope Benedict XVI during his blessing when he said, “I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today’s Angelus, including a group of American confirmations candidates from Hohenfels and Garmisch in Germany.”**



# Read *Across* America

## HES kicks off reading celebration with fair

HES students (from left) Haleigh Davis, Mustafa Ozigi, Kelly Anselmo, and Abigail Matheson get into character during the Dr. Seuss Fair March 2.



Story and photo by GARRY BARROWS  
Staff writer

Hohenfels Elementary School ushered in the tenth anniversary of the National Education Association's Read Across America, the nation's largest reading celebration with a Dr. Seuss Fair March 2.

Twelve Soldiers from 1-4 Infantry, along with 25 volunteers, helped coordinate activities throughout the school that featured numerous games and other activities.

School Sponsor and Information Specialist Lois Langholz said the school wanted to do something special for this year's Read Across America program.

"We wanted to celebrate reading," said Langholz, "put the joy and fun of reading center stage at our school."

She and other members of the school literacy committee brainstormed the fair concept and came up with ideas for 14 event areas to help participating students appreciate, understand, and enjoy the world famous characters and

books of Dr. Seuss.

One school-wide project was modeled after Seuss' first book, "And to Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street." The award-winning book details the wild and wonderful things the main character sees on his way home. In the book, the character fantasizes and exaggerates to make his walk home seem much more exciting.

One of the students' assignments was to write an exaggerated tale about what they saw on their way home from school.

The results were posted along the school walls on a long roll of paper colored to look like the Mulberry Street thoroughfare.

"(The fair) was fun, smooth, and easy because of the participation of the staff, the enthusiastic assistance from the volunteers and the good behavior of the students," said Langholz. "In fact, the response we have received from the staff, volunteers and especially the students, has said, 'let's do it again next year.'"

That's the plan, said Langholz!

## Hohenfels' AER provided \$94,500 in emergency assistance in '06, help make a difference in '07

by GARRY BARROWS  
Staff writer

On December 13, 2006, Spc. Michael Evans and his wife Misty became the proud parents of their second child—a baby girl named Isabella.

It was immediately apparent that there were medical complications, and the health of baby Isabella was in jeopardy. Doctors diagnosed the days-old infant with a heart condition that would require urgent surgery.

Isabella received her operation at 8 days old at a hospital in Erlangen, 46 miles from Hohenfels. She was hospitalized for a month.

Michael and Misty required assistance meeting the extraordinary expenses of the daily 100-mile commute to and from the hospital, meals, child care for their toddler, hotel rooms, and other fast-mounting expenses.

That's where the Army Emergency Relief program stepped in. To Michael and Misty's relief, AER provided immediate financial assistance, allowing them to provide the operation and afford the rising costs associated with the medical emergency.

"Our family was put in a situation we couldn't handle alone," said Michael.

AER is a private, non-profit organization that provides emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. Founded in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff, the program is known for its motto: "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own."

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to active and retired Soldiers and their dependents when there is a valid need.

The AER funds that are made available to commanders are not limited but are constrained only by the requirement of valid need.

Last year more than \$51.8 million in AER assistance was provided to more than 52,000 Soldiers and their families.

This includes 46,000 active duty Soldiers who were provided more than \$44.6 million in assistance and 3,700 retired Soldiers were provided with more than \$5.0 million in assistance. Almost 2,000 widows, widowers,

and orphans of deceased Soldiers were provided more than \$2.2 million in assistance.

Another \$5.7 million in educational scholarships was awarded to 4,500 dependent children and spouses of Soldiers—active, retired, and deceased.

"A lot of people could use the help, but they just don't know or realize something like this is there and what it's for," said Michael.

Being from a military family, Michael said he was aware of the program and grateful for its assistance.

"If you need help, this is where you should go," he said.

While many eligible people are unaware of the program and its benefits, many more simply choose not to donate to keep the program afloat.

All funding for the grants and loans are generated by gifts and donations by Soldiers all over the world with no government money being used.

"Since its inception in 1942, over three million Soldiers and their families have been helped during their greatest time of need by donations from other Soldiers," said U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Commander Lt. Col. James Matheson. "That statistic alone should motivate every Soldier to pitch in a little bit to help out."

Emergency situations that may qualify for AER assistance include the following:

- Food, rent or utilities
- Emergency transportation and vehicle repairs
- Funeral expenses
- Medical/dental expenses
- Personal needs when pay is lost or stolen

This year the Army-wide fund drive will run through May 15. Hohenfels will kick off its drive March 30.

Direct payroll deductions are available to Soldiers to make contributions. Even small sums will add up and provide the funds your fellow Soldiers may need in an emergency, said Matheson.

"From Day One in the Army, we are taught that we can always achieve more by working together as a team than by going our separate ways," he said. "AER is about teamwork, with each member of the Army Team contributing to

the welfare of another Soldier and his family."

Soldiers helping Soldiers is a rewarding program, but not just for the Soldiers, said Amy Bernath, Hohenfels' Financial Readiness manager and AER officer.

"It is a very fulfilling part of my job to be able to assist in helping those who are in true need" she said.



Bernath

### DID YOU KNOW:

■ AER provided \$94,500 in emergency financial assistance at Hohenfels in 2006.

■ Last year AER provided \$51.8 million in assistance Army wide.

■ AER was created in 1942 and has provided more than \$997 million in assistance to more than 3 million Soldiers, retirees, and family members.

■ 2007 marks AER's 66th year of operations.

■ The top two reasons for AER financial assistance at Hohenfels in 2006 were emergency travel and vehicle repairs.

■ Hohenfels AER's 2007 fundraising goal is \$40,000.

■ All financial assistance provided to Soldiers by the American Red Cross comes from AER funds.

■ This year's AER fundraising campaign theme is "Soldiers Helping Soldiers."

■ AER financial assistance is usually provided as interest-free loans.

■ 88 cents out of every dollar contributed to AER is used to help Soldiers. Only \$.12 goes to administration.

■ There are 93 AER sections at Army installations worldwide.

■ The Hohenfels AER Section is located at ACS, Bldg 317.

## Garrison teens sweep 2007 OM awards

by MAX MAUPIN  
Special to the Bavarian News

Kindergarten through twelfth grade students competed in the annual Odyssey of the Mind DoDDS Europe competition March 3 at the Patrick Henry Pavilion in Heidelberg, Germany.

The students gathered to compete from Bahrain, England, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain. This year over 450 competitors representing 68 teams competed.

OM is a program where students are given a choice of five possible long-term problems to solve and present at competition. OM stresses teamwork and that the end goal is not the focus, but the journey to reach the goal. As a team, participants have to complete both the long-term project and a spontaneous short-term problem in which they try to solve the problem in an allotted amount of time.

Hohenfels High School grabbed first place in the Division III problem "I'm Only Thinking of You." Hohenfels also grabbed second place Division III with the problem "Around the World in Eight Minutes" while the Vilseck teams placed eighth and ninth respectively in the Division I portion of the same problem.

Vilseck Elementary School also grabbed third place in the Division I problem "Out of the Box." Other long-term problems included "Tag 'EM" and "The Large and Small of It." K-2 grade students performed "The Time Capsule" problem as an exhibition and not scored competition.

Hohenfels senior Rachel Milock took home a coveted OMER Award for Leadership & Dedication for her performance and interaction with her teammates.

"I was extremely honored to be recognized with such a prestigious award," said Milock.

First place winners of the DoDDS Europe competition are eligible to attend the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition May 23-26 at Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan. The world competition will also include Division IV competitors at the college level.

## Bavarian food wasn't the only 'roast' enjoyed at annual JROTC ball

by SABRINA COLLINS  
Special to the Bavarian News

March 9 marked the annual Hohenfels High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps' annual ball held at the Gasthaus Neugebauer in Herrnsreid, Germany.

The evening was filled with toasts, skits, speeches and a traditional Bavarian three-course meal.

The colors were posted to the tune of a drum and fife playing a traditional Revolutionary War march entitled "The British Grenadiers."

Cadets began the evening with traditional toasts including one directed toward a table adorned with a black cloth and set for one, representing those POW's and MIA's who made

the ultimate sacrifice.

The cadets then concocted a grog bowl in military tradition, complete with ingredients that represent the JROTC values such as sweat representing hard work, Brasso polish for the pride in the uniform, and soap for clean service and values.

Dignitaries attending the event included Director of DoDDS Europe Diana Ohman, DoDDS Bavaria District Superintendent Mike Thompson, Col. Thomas Vandal, and Lt. Col. Martin Scott of the British Army.

Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shawn Redden was the master of ceremonies with additional humor provided by cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan Matheson. U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Commander Lt. Col. James Matheson received a standing ovation as guest

speaker after delivering a moving speech focusing on the values that JROTC instills in its cadets.

After dinner, guests danced compliments of deejay Sgt. Maj. Patrick Durr of 1-4 Infantry.

"The cadet officers did a great job of putting the whole ball together," said cadet Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andrew Van Ausdoll.

There were 66 adults and 58 cadets and guests in attendance.

Several attendees commented that it was the finest military ball they had ever attended, a tribute to the cadet staff and their good sense of humor, which left no attendees unscathed as even Ohman, Vandal, and Maj. and Mrs. Parker became the targets of a fun-natured "roasting."



Photo by Lara Clagett  
DoDDS-E Bavaria district superintendent Diana Ohman was roasted at the ball.



# What’s Happening

## Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

### General officers’ new assignments announced

■ Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commanding general, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to command-ing general, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Com-mand and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

■ Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, deputy chief of staff, G-3, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to commanding general, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

■ Brig. Gen. David R. Hogg, assistant division commander (support), 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to commanding general, Joint Multinational Training Command, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

■ Brig. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence, director, J-6, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., to commanding general, 5th Signal Command/deputy chief of staff, G-6, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

■ Brig. Gen. David G. Perkins, commanding general, Joint Multinational Training Command, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to deputy chief of staff, G-3, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

■ Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Rogers, deputy commanding general/chief of staff, U.S. Army Accessions Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia, to assistant division commander, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

■ Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, 5th Signal Command/deputy chief of staff, G-6, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to commanding general, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command and Fort Monmouth, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

**Adoption support group meeting held in Vilseck**

Have you adopted a child or are interested in adopting? If so, join us today at 6:30 p.m. in the Vilseck ACS Lounge.

For more information, call CIV 09662-83-2650.

**Federal Woman’s Program kicks off tomorrow**

March is Women’s History Month. USAG Grafenwoehr is kicking off its Federal Women’s Program tomorrow. A meeting will be held 3:30 p.m. at the Bldg. 244 conference room in Grafenwoehr, near Gate 3. We will discuss activities and form committees to provide a host of programs and activities for the year ahead.

The Federal Women’s Program assists all levels of management in creating an environment that is condu-cive to the recognition, development, promotion, understanding, and utiliza-tion of the abilities, skills, and knowl-edge of women in the workforce.

It is part of the Special Emphasis Program, part of the EEO Program.

The mission of the Special Emphasis Program is to promote the federal government as a positive career choice; its goal is to identify what barriers exist for positions that have an under-representation of women, and develop strategies to eliminate these barriers in the workplace.

You don’t have to be a woman to commit to this effort to create and maintain a diverse workforce. All community members are invited to attend The POC is the USAG Grafenwoehr FWP Manager, Carolyn Beiter, at DSN 475-8805/1310 / CIV 09641-83-8805/1310 or [carolyn.beiter@us.army.mil](mailto:carolyn.beiter@us.army.mil).

**Annual German/American community council meeting**

**Friday:** Annual general membership meeting 2-4 p.m. in the Grafenwoehr “Sportpark” (near swimming pool).

U.S. members interested in commu-nity relations projects and learning more about German culture are welcome to join this organization (annual member-ship fee is \$25).

For more information, contact Richard Beiter at DSN 475-7691 or e-mail [richard.beiter@us.army.mil](mailto:richard.beiter@us.army.mil).

**Logistics Warrior Ball**

**March 31:** Theater’s logisticians in the grade of E-5 and above or civilian equivalent, retirees, and guests are cordially invited to the Officers Club, Ramstein Air Base, from 5:30 p.m. - midnight. Dress Mess/Dress Blues/Green Dress Uniform (Enlisted) Formal civilian attire required. The cost is \$39.

For more information, contact 1st Lt. Torres Ernesto DSN 475-8042 or <https://extranet.g4.hqusareur.army.mil/lwb>.

**Child care providers needed**

Are you interested in becoming a family child care provider or Child Development Center provider? Contact Ivory Morton at DSN 466-3221 or Barbara Tennant at DSN 466-4707.

**Garrison School Update**

**Today:** VES PTSA meeting at 2:45 p.m. in information center.

**Today:** EFMP support group meets monthly on the third Wednesday, first meeting today, 10 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 273 in Vilseck, for all those interested in learning how to interact with their child with special needs. Assistance from the EDIS staff. For questions or concerns, call ACS at CIV 09662-83-2650, DSN 476-2650.

**Tomorrow:** VES Muffins for Mom and Donuts for Dad in the Information Center 8-8:20 a.m. Spotlighting VES Readers.

**Tomorrow:** GES Parent Night 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**April 6:** Teacher Work Day. No school for students.

**April 9-13:** Spring Recess

**April 20:** Parent Teacher confer-ences and student registration.

**April 28:** CYS Kinderfest at Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vilseck Falcon Soccer at home starting at 10 a.m.

**May 17:** Early acceleration for students must meet the following requirements: sponsor must provide PCS orders or a written request to the registrar at least 30 days prior to the departure date; the student must be in attendance up to and including the date of May 17; the student must complete all accelerated work requested by teachers and teachers must sign off that work is accepted and completed no later than one week prior to accelerated withdrawal date; and all students requesting an acceleration must have the approval of registrar, counselors, and principal.

**June 14:** Last day of school. Early release about noon all schools.

School Contact Numbers:

- VES 476-2812
- GES 475-7133
- GMS 475-9500
- VHS 476-2554
- School Transportation 475-9525

**GMS Yearbook.** If you would like your child to have a GMS Yearbook, place your orders now. This is the first Grafenwoehr Middle School Yearbook! The Yearbook Club is working really hard to make the first yearbook special. All Yearbook orders need to be turned into the front office. Please make checks payable to GMS PTSA.

**CYS SKIES new creative arts program.** Tuesdays for ages 3-5, 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and ages 5 & up, 12:15-1:15 p.m. Vilseck CYS Bldg. 224. Monthly Cost: \$20. For information, contact CYS at DSN 476-2760 or CIV 09662-83-2760.

**MCEC offering March Parent2Parent workshops**

■ **Tuesday—Surfing the Waves of Education:** A web-based workshop. 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Vilseck Digital Training Facility, Bldg. 355.

This workshop will help you become familiar with the many different electronic resources available to help the mobile military child as well as the college or career bound student.

■ **March 28—Successful School Transitioning:** 12 p.m. in the Vilseck CYS conference room, Bldg 224.

Whether it is your child’s first transition or just another of many, there is much you can do to help make the transition easier for you, your child and the new school.

We will offer helpful ideas, tools and resources that can help your family as they anticipate a move or adjust to a new community.

For more information from the MCEC Parent to Parent Team, contact us

at 0175-648-2777 or [GrafVilseckParent2Parent@yahoo.com](mailto:GrafVilseckParent2Parent@yahoo.com).

**Falcon’s Nest MS, Teen Center spring break camp**

**Register Now:** Sign up by April 2.

During the week of April 9-13, teens can have fun with the Vilseck MS and Teen Center from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Teens can go to Wackersdorf Go-Karting on April 10 or Palm Beach Nuernberg on April 12.

For more information, call the Falcon’s Nest in Vilseck, DSN 476-3144.

**Red Cross volunteers must have background checks**

**Background check deadline is March 31.**

All Red Cross volunteers in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, or Hohenfels must have completed a mandatory background check. Effective April 1, you cannot volunteer for the American Red Cross without a completed background check. Please contact one of the Red Cross offices below to find out how:

- Vilseck at DSN 476-1760 or CIV 09662-83-1760.
- Grafenwoehr at DSN 475-1760 or CIV 09641-83-1760.
- Hohenfels at DSN 466-1760 or CIV 09472-83-1760.

**Volunteers needed at Grafenwoehr Health Clinic**

Volunteers needed to assist with patient flow when they move back into the newly renovated clinic later this month. If you can volunteer a few hours once or twice a week, contact the Grafenwoehr Red Cross at DSN 475-1760 or CIV 09641-83-1760, or stop by Bldg. 244, second floor, room 201.

**Temporary change of hours for Community Bank**

**March 28:** The Vilseck Community Bank will have reduced hours, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. for staff training.

All Community Bank Banking Centers in Germany will be closed on April 6, in observation of Good Friday and on April 9 in observation of Easter Monday.

**Chaplain Happenings**

■ **Movie Night for Lent:**

Movies will be shown every Thursday during Lent for parents with discussion afterwards. All movies are shown at the Vilseck Chapel. On Sundays, movies for teens (13 and up) will begin at 4 p.m. They will watch the same movie that was viewed by the parents.

■ **During Lent at Vilseck Chapel:**

Please join Father Pete at 5:30 p.m. on Friday’s as we walk the Stations of the Cross. We will fellowship with soup and bread afterwards. If you have any questions about our Lenten schedule, call the Catholic Office, DSN 476-3696, or e-mail [allison.mako@us.army.mil](mailto:allison.mako@us.army.mil).

■ **Lutheran/Episcopal Lenten schedule:**

April 5, **Holy Thursday**, 6 p.m. Small Vilseck Chapel.

April 6, **Good Friday**, 5 p.m. Small Vilseck Chapel.

April 8, **Easter Sunday**, 10:30 a.m. Small Vilseck Chapel.

■ **Palm Sunday**, April 1

9 a.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel.

11 a.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel.

9 a.m. Protestant Service, Vilseck Chapel.

10:30 a.m. Protestant Service, Graf Chapel.

■ **Holy Thursday**, April 5, 6 p.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel.

■ **Good Friday**, April 6

noon, Ecumenical Service, Graf Chapel.

6 p.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel.

■ **Easter Vigil Service**, April 7,

7 p.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel.

■ **Easter Sunday**, April 8

7 a.m. Sunrise Service at Big Mike’s (Vilseck).

9 a.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel.

11 a.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel.

9 a.m. Protestant Service, Vilseck Chapel.

10:30 a.m. Protestant Service, Graf Chapel.

■ **Club Beyond, April 8-15:** 20 students and leaders from USAG Graf are participating in Club Beyond’s HS Service Project in Slovakia. We are collecting supplies for our program and for the Slovak schools we’re working in now through Sunday. Flyers are in the chapels with a complete list of items needed, and collection boxes are in the Fellowship Hall.

## Hohenfels Briefs

### PX reopened on Mondays

The AAFES Main Store and Food Court at Hohenfels will be open on Mondays from March 12 to June 15.

Hours are:

- Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**ID card section temporarily closed for upgrades**

Hohenfels ID card section in Bldg. 10, room 130, will be closed for DEERS upgrade March 28-29. RAPIDS Version 7 hard/software platform will be installed and tested during these dates.

Operations will resume the following workday. POC is Jessie Cabredo, Central Processing Facility Bldg. 10, DSN 466-4030.

**Fitness day scheduled Friday**

Friday: Want to burn 1000+ calories? Spend three hours with us participating in different fitness activities that will have you energized and feeling great!

Tentative Schedule:

- 8-8:30 diet, training information
- 8:30-8:40 all participants warm up
- 8:45-9:15 jazzercise or spin
- 9:20-9:50 jazzercise or spin
- 9:55-10:25 turbo kick or double step
- 10:30-11 turbo kick or double step
- 11:05-11:35 tone or stretch
- 11:40-12:05 tone or stretch

This fitness day may be non-stop or you can take breaks when you need to.

Everyone receives:

- 1) A card that is redeemable for a free and complete body fat analysis using MicroFit’s state of the art assessment equipment ([www.microfit.com](http://www.microfit.com)).
- 2) Answers to common questions on diet and exercise.
- 3) Aerobic conditioning classes: jazzercise, spin, step, and turbo kick.
- 4) Toning/strength conditioning classes.
- 5) Stretching/flexibility class

Register by Friday by stopping by the post gym and paying \$15.

For more information, call DSN 466-2883, or e-mail [info@knoackknock.solutions.com](mailto:info@knoackknock.solutions.com).

**High school registration, parent conferences April 20**

Parent conferences and pre-registra-tion will only be held on April 20.

This will be a one day event. For more information, call DSN 466-3162.

**Auditor needed for HHS school activity fund**

Hohenfels High School is looking for a person with some financial background to audit the school activity fund account.

We would like an experienced person to make sure we are following all the procedures. If interested, call DSN 466-3161 or e-mail [william.arnold@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:william.arnold@eu.dodea.edu).

**FAST class aiming to raise GT scores for Soldiers**

The next Functional Academic Skills Training class will be held April 16-April 27 in Bldg. 336, room three.

Registration must be submitted by April 11. For more information, call DSN 466-2882 or e-mail [lissa.wojtkun@us.army.mil](mailto:lissa.wojtkun@us.army.mil).

**Register now for ASE exams**

The Education Center has begun registering for the May 2007 Automotive Service Excellence Certification Exams. Deadline for registration is Friday.

ASE certifications are highly regarded credentials in the automotive service industry and may also be accepted for college credit.

Soldiers in a related MOS can take up to three certification tests for free.

Call DSN 466-4040 for information.

**Registration open for new tae-kwon-do classes**

New tae-kwon-do classes will start April 1. Re-registration for the new term III of tae-kwon-do is now open. For more information, stop by the CLEOS office or call DSN 466-2078.

**Additional duty stafety officer course set for April**

Supervisor and additional duty safety officer course for Hohenfels Garrison

includes tenant offices and units IAW AR 385-10. The Department of Army Safety Program requires that an additional duty safety officer (Soldier, SGT E-5 promotable or higher rank or equivalent civilian) be appointed for each organization or unit.

The appointed additional duty safety officers or NCOs for tenant units are also invited to attend this course. Register for this course for either April 26 and 27 (a one day course) from 10:00 a.m.-3 p.m. (with a lunch break) at the Garrison Safety Office, Bldg. 388. POC: Hohenfels Garrison Safety Office, DSN 466-1670/4626.

**Ramstein holds risk communication workshop**

A U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Introductory Risk Communication workshop will be held May 7-9 at the Ramstein Officer’s Club.

Register online at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/risk> or e-mail [Suaquita.perry@us.army.mil](mailto:Suaquita.perry@us.army.mil).

A faxable registration form is also available upon request. For local information, call DSN 486-7099 or e-mail [Laura.Mitvalsky@us.army.mil](mailto:Laura.Mitvalsky@us.army.mil).

**New office hours for OU**

The University of Oklahoma has new office hours. Benjamin Griffin will be in the Hohenfels office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If you need assistance and cannot get into the office during these hours, call DSN 476-2096 or 475-7079.

**DFAC changes hours**

The garrison DFAC will be open for three meals a day until March 26 and April 3-5.

**Winter clearance sale set at thrift store through March 29**

The thrift store is having a winter clearance bag sale through March 29. All TSP (thrift store property) and expired clothing will be \$4/bag. Stop by the thrift store for more information and for your chance to save!

**TMP dispatch requires online training for long trips**

USAREUR requires ASMIS-2 online Driver Risk Assessment to be completed by the government vehicle driver and supervisor before dispatch of a govern-ment vehicle for trips over 150 miles.

TMP will not dispatch a government vehicle for these longer trips without a copy of this form. POC: Garrison Safety, DSN 466-4626/1670.

**Chaplain Happenings**

■ **Catholic Lenton Stations of the Cross:**

Friday at 5 p.m., Catholic Lenton Recollection Service.

March 30 at 5 p.m., Catholic Lenton Stations of the Cross Service, Main Post Chapel.

■ **Holy Week:** April 1, Palm Sunday all chapel services.

April 3 at 7 p.m. Interfaith “Living Last Supper”, Post Theater.

April 6 at 7 p.m. Friday Pentecostal Service, Nainhof Chapel.

April 6 at 5 p.m. Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord’s Passion Mass, Main Post Chapel.

April 7 at 5 p.m. Holy Saturday, Catholic Easter Vigil Mass, Main Post Chapel.

April 6 at 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, Collective Protestant, Nainhof Chapel.

April 8, Easter Sunday, all chapel services.

■ **Christ’s Commandos (C2)** is church just for kids. We meet in the Post Theater on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, 10:45 a.m.- noon. We have skits, puppets, music, and games.

■ **Young adults** who have already graduated from high school and are working in the community are invited to Bible study, a relaxed atmosphere, and a home cooked meal each Tuesday evening at Bldg. 743, across from the Commissary.

This is sponsored by the Protestant Congregation at Nainhof Chapel. Call Chaplain Bradford Baumann at DSN 466-1570 or CIV 09472-831570 for more information.

■ Students in **junior high or high school** are invited to The MUG Coffee House each Wednesday evening. Call Chris Howard at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 09472-834793.



# Columnist considers her appreciation of German tradition, American freedoms

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

People who know that I grew up in Germany but have also lived in the U.S. for many years often ask me: "Where do you like it better? Which do you prefer—the American or German way of life?"

These are not easy questions to answer because both worlds have their positive and negative aspects. I feel safer from crime in Germany but at the same time more closely watched and judged by the Germans (mostly my family and friends).

I love the comfort and traditions of German culture, but at the same time enjoy the freedoms American culture gives me.

It doesn't seem to matter on which side of the ocean I live, I always miss something from the other side.

When I am in Germany, I miss Wal-Mart, football games that are on TV during the day, and some of my favorite Mexican restaurants.

When I move back to the States, I miss the Bundesliga (German soccer league), my favorite German TV shows, butchers, bakeries, and Greek restaurants.

Both cultures are very different, as you have noticed without a doubt, and it is funny how we have preconceived notions about a country before we actually experience it.

Think about how you pictured Germany before you arrived here.

Many of my American friends admit that they thought the whole country looked like picturesque Bavaria with its beautiful Alps, and where most people wore traditional



photo by Paula Guzman

**"Many of my American friends admit that they thought the whole country looked like picturesque Bavaria (below), where most people wore traditional clothes like the Dirndl and Lederhosen (above)."**

clothes like Dirndl and Lederhosen, drank lots of beer, yodeled, and danced the polka.

Sound funny? While this sounds like an awful cliché, it's a fairly accurate Old World image that many Americans have of Germany.

Similarly, Germans have their preconceived notions of Americans as well.

Right after the war, the things Germans associated Americans with the most were chewing gum, Coca Cola, and nylon stockings.

When I married an American Soldier and moved to the U.S. 17 years ago, my parents pictured my new life as a mixture of "Dynasty," "Dallas," and "Miami Vice"—the way they perceived America, courtesy of American TV.

As a matter of fact, the one sight they wanted to see most when they visited us in Texas was the Southfork Ranch, one of the world's most popular ranches, made famous as the film location of the Dallas television



Courtesy photos



Throughout the 80s, television shows such as (left) Dallas, Dynasty, and (above) Miami Vice colored European conceptions of Americans.



Courtesy photo

All of Germany does not look like southern Bavaria.

series.

So how do many Germans think about America now?

Well, for vacations some of the favorite locations are:

- New York for its world renowned fame. It's simply a must-visit location.
- Washington DC, for historical purpose
- Florida and California, for the beaches
- The Grand Canyon, for its natural beauty.

If asked to describe a typical American, some Germans are likely to describe a man wearing cowboy boots and a Stetson, and Germans still call America "Das Land der unbegrenzten Moelichkeiten" (the country of unlimited possibilities).

People in both countries enjoy watching sports. Germans are fanatic about "Fussball" (soccer) and enjoy watching "Handball" (similar to soccer, only playing the ball with both hands), tennis, and Formula One racing.

Americans remain famous the world over for their favorite sports pastime—baseball, and for watching lots of basketball and football.

When it comes to transportation, Americans look forward to driving on the Autobahn, while Germans dream of riding a motorcycle on Route 66.

The differences in food between the two worlds are obvious:

American kids grow up with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches while German kids eat lots of Nutella (a chocolate-hazelnut spread) on German bread known as "Broetchen."

Germans grill lots of Bratwurst, while Americans throw hot dogs or hamburgers on their grills.

Neighboring countries have a significant influence on food choices in both countries. Italian, Greek, and Turkish restaurants are much more common throughout Germany while Mexican restaurants are much more common in the States.

I know the one thing I will miss the most when we leave Germany this summer is the food. Many of my American friends tell me it will be the breads and pastries they have come to love.

I promise my readers that I will feature a recipe for a typical German Sauerbraten and Broetchen before we move to the United States this summer.

If you have any recipe requests, please e-mail them to me soon, so I can address them before our time in Germany is up.

Until then, embrace the similarities AND differences in your home and host countries.

Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? E-mail me at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil) and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.

## Try turkey schnitzel with a twist of flavor

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

One of the many dishes I looked forward to when I moved back to Germany from the U.S. the last time was turkey schnitzel.

I love that I can buy them already cut from the German butcher. In the U.S., I was forced to buy a whole turkey breast and cut them myself.

Turkey schnitzel is a modern favorite on German lunch or dinner tables. It is either called "Truthahnschnitzel" or "Putenschnitzel." Germans usually fry them au naturel or breaded. My favorite variations are Vienna-style or with a crispy cheese crust.

An easy way to get that "restaurant flavor" of Vienna style is by using "Knorr Fix for Wiener Schnitzel" (available in the

commissary).

You simply pour the contents of the package onto a shallow plate, moisten the turkey schnitzel and turn the meat in the crumbs, pressing them slightly. Then fry the meat in a pan of hot oil until both sides are golden brown.

If you prefer a crispy, cheesy crust with more flavor, give the following recipe a try. It is a family favorite in my house and goes great with a side of Bavarian potato salad (recipe to be published in an upcoming issue).

Guten Appetit!

**Putenschnitzel mit Kaesekruste**  
(Turkey schnitzel with cheese crust)

4 turkey schnitzel  
2 tsp. salt  
1 ½ tsp. pepper

1 cup flour  
1 egg  
2 Tbs. water  
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese  
(Germans use Emmentaler)  
2 Tbs. oil

Wash meat and pat dry. Lightly sprinkle with salt and pepper on each side. Set aside. Spread flour onto a shallow plate.

Whisk egg and water and pour onto a second shallow plate.

Place shredded cheese on a third plate. Heat oil in a large frying pan.

Turn meat first in flour, then in egg mixture, and finally in cheese.

Fry in oil until golden brown (about five minutes on each side).

Yield: 4 servings



Courtesy photo

Turkey schnitzel is a popular German meal.

**Try something different ! If you like to cook and would like an authentic German recipe, e-mail the Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist for a recipe.**

**Wondering how to recreate a delicious dish you ate in a village Gasthof or neighborhood cafe?**

**Let us know. We'd like to feature the recipe in a future issue.**

**Just e-mail us at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil). Guten Appetit!**





## Anytime is a good time for a visit to the 'City of Lights'

Story and photos by BILYANA ATOVA  
Staff writer

**W**hether you're passing through for a long weekend or enjoying an extended vacation, the world renowned City of Lights demands to be explored, discovered firsthand, felt, sensed, and remembered.

From a romantic walk along the Seine River or the spectacular views from the Tour Eiffel (Eiffel Tower) to speechless moments before Musée de l'Orangerie (Orangerie Museum) masterpieces, Paris is the undescrivable essence of all things French.

The capitol city is not only the country's influential centre of politics, fashion, business, arts, and science, but it also serves as an important hub of intercontinental transportation. It is home to prominent universities, sport events, opera companies, and museums, attracting more than 30 million foreign visitors a year.

### City of Love

And it is not called the most romantic city in the world for nothing. Being with somebody you love or finding love in Paris is an enchanting journey that can't quite be reproduced anywhere else.

It is not difficult to create your very own movie scene. Simply join the thousands of couples who boldly display their affection, regardless of time or location throughout the city.

On the metro, at street-side cafes, parks, or in restaurants, lovers gazing longingly into each other's eyes or kissing passionately is not a rare scene in the City of Love.

Have a stolen kiss on the Tour Eiffel with the city illuminated beneath your feet. Adore one another over a glass of Bordeaux in a small restaurant near Place de la Bastille or la Conciergerie. Whisper "Je t'aime" on the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in Paris, while a warm river breeze blows across your face.

### Fine art

But loving one another is not the end-all in Paris. The city's love of

fine art is nearly as strong as its fame as a lover's paradise.

A testament to Louis XIV's reign, magnificent buildings dot the unique landscape, along with historic and architecturally stunning bridges and cathedrals.

An endless list of art galleries will reinforce the visitors' love of art.

In Paris, contemporary and traditional art coexist, the incredible contrasts between them not hidden but screaming for attention. The most discriminating art critics can find art to satisfy the palate in this art capitol.

On any timeline while visiting the city, four must-see art museums include:

**Le Louvre**, arguably the best museum in the world.

From its beginnings as a royal fortress to the public institution it is today, le Louvre is a massive structure housing 35,000 works of art displayed over 60,000 square meters of exhibition space. And this does not include the non-permanent collections.

To fully explore le Louvre you need at least four days, but several hours would suffice for visitors who have only enough time to view the most popular pieces, including the Mona Lisa and Venis de Milo.

My personal favorite as far as museums go is the **Musée de l'Orangerie**, a great choice for spending a lazy afternoon.

Finally opened after nearly a decade of renovations, the museum offers a fabulous concentration of masterpieces by Claude Monet, Cezanne, Renoir, Picasso, and many other famous impressionists.

The **Musée d'Orsay** is housed in the former Orsay train station on the banks of the Seine River.

It contains mostly French art and is probably best known for its extensive collection of impressionist masterpieces.

The art and cultural experience of visiting the **Centre George Pompidou**, France's national museum of modern art, begins before you actually enter the building. Its architecture demands as much attention as the art displayed inside.

After a leisurely stroll through

the museum, visitors can enjoy one of many cozy cafés or lovely art stores surrounding the building.

### So much to do

For tourists who are less artistically inclined, a walk along the Jardin des Tuileries (Tuileries Garden), designed by Le Notre, the gardener to King Louis XIV, is highly recommended. The garden stretches along the Seine River from le Louvre to the Place de la Concorde, continuing on to the Champs-Élysées Boulevard, and is scattered with beautiful fountains and statues.

At the western end of the Champs-Élysées stands the Arc de Triomphe, another famous monument in Paris, where the view from the top surprisingly outshines the one from Tour Eiffel.

Exploration of Ile de la Cité—one of two islands in the Seine River—is a must for first-time visitors to the city. It is the location where Paris was founded, and its western end houses a palace that has stood since Roman times while the eastern end of the island is where the Notre Dame de Paris (Our Lady of Paris) is situated.

The Notre Dame cathedral is widely considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture in the modern world.

Visitors in search of a quiet place to escape in the crowded city center can should visit the Jardin du Luxembourg (Luxembourg Garden).

Near the Sorbonne University, it is one of Paris' most famous parks. Here, children can enjoy a puppet theater or rent small remote-controlled boats at the octagonal pond (the Grand Bassin) in the center of the park. Picturesque lawns, alleys, fountains, and statues dot the park.

But for those who can tolerate tourist crowds, Disneyland Park is an ideal spot to enjoy all of the over-the-top tourist extremism that you can expect to see at any U.S.-based theme parks.

Traditionalists should enjoy a romantic boat tour on the Seine River and a historic tour of the Moulin Rouge and its cabarets to

See **CITY OF LIGHTS** page 17



Paris, riverside at dawn.



One of the world's most famous landmarks - the Eiffel Tower.



The Notre Dame, a classic example of French Gothic architecture.



The Seine River is the perfect backdrop for a romantic evening stroll. Visitors can enjoy boat tours during the spring and fall seasons.



A breath-taking view of the renowned City of Lights from the top of the Eiffel Tower, 276 meters above the ground. Many other Paris attractions can be seen from this vantage point.



# Knock down, drag out



U.S. Army GarrisonGrafenwoehr Sports & Fitness hosted an amateur boxing invitational March 10 at Vilseck's Memorial Fitness Center.

The event drew hundreds of community members into the stands to watch as the Vilseck team took first place with 162 points, followed by second place's Wiesbaden (18 points), and third places's Friedberg (10 points). The winners will be listed in the April 4 Bavarian News.

The next boxing invitational show will be hosted at the Baumholder Hall of Championships Fitness Center March 31. For more information, call David Jefferson, the Baumholder Sports and Fitness director at DSN 485-7176.

Staff photos by Adriane Foss



# Falcons place fourth in Division II

by JODIWARD  
Staff writer

The Vilseck High School Falcon men took fourth place out of ten teams, in the Division II boys basketball DODDS European Tournament Feb. 21-24 in Mannheim.

Off to a good start, the Falcons took three of their four games in pool-play, beating out Aviano 48-29, Black Forest Academy 39-32, and AFNORTH 53-34 to secure a seat in the semi-finals.

For their first semi-final game, the Falcons were matched against Baumholder. Though the Falcons had a narrow lead over the Bucs at the end of the third, it wasn't a big enough margin to secure the victory.

Kyed Najdawi led Vilseck with 17 points. Kollin Jordan blocked three shots and scored 10, but picked up his fourth foul with just over five

“ We have a strong group of sophomores who will be juniors next year and we are counting on them... ”

Richard Ritter

Vilseck High School Varsity Basketball Coach

minutes left.

The Baumholder Bucs took that game 47-39, and went off to win the Division II title, with SHAPE in second, and Naples only beating Vilseck by two points, 49-47, to take third place.

Vilseck High School Head Coach, Richard Ritter said he had mixed feelings about how the Falcons' season ended.

“We ended up 9-11, but we were semi-finalists at the European tournament and took fourth out of 10 teams,” he said.

“I would have liked to win the entire tournament because we were close, but I was happy to see the team come together and improve from last year,” said Ritter.

Besides taking fourth place at the Europeans, three Falcons received special recognition. VHS junior Kollin Jordan, who averaged 10 points per game and 7 rebounds, was selected for the All Tournament Team, while senior team captains Chris Lewis, with 58 assists and 69 steals for the season, and Ronnie Turner, also averaging 10 points per game, were named to the

All Conference Team.

Ritter said that each of them played exceptionally well throughout the season and tournament.

As for next season, Ritter said that some new talent will come and assist the team's returning players.

“We have a strong group of sophomores who will be juniors next year and we are counting on them to help replace our departing players.”

“Kyed Najdawi, Eric Hickman, Zach Skells, Kawika Camanse, Shane Calder are all sophomores,” said Ritter, “who will play a big role next year.”

# Graf Grizzlies take a bite out of Neustadt team

by KATIE COWART  
Assistant editor

The Grafenwoehr Grizzlies basketball team hosted the DJK Neustadt a.d. WN team, a semi-professional part German and part American team, in a show of friendly international competition March 13 at the Graf physical fitness center.

This was the first time the two teams had met, and both the players and coaches were excited about the match-up.

“I personally like playing non-army teams,” Grizzlies Coach James Tiessen said. “They play a different, more fundamental style of basketball. I am ‘old school’, believing defense wins games as opposed to the philosophy many have today that emphasis should be placed on offense.”

Kendrick Moore agreed with his coach.

“The German teams have a more

open style, and up tempo. It makes you better, because we're not used to that,” Moore said.

Even though it was termed a “friendly game”, the guys still had a competitive nature about them.

“We just want to give our best, and of course, to win!” said 16-year-old Tobias Merkl of Neustadt, the youngest player on the team.

Both teams fought hard, but maintained good sportsmanship.

“There are no barriers because basketball is universal,” said Moore. “It's all about going out there and playing and the good sportsmanship that comes out of the game.”

The Grizzlies won 90-58, and Neustadt has already invited the Graf team to a rematch.

The next day, the Grizzlies headed back to Wiesbaden for the March 14-18 USAREUR championships. Three of Graf's starters could not attend the tournament, but Tiessen was still



Photo by Hali Butler

Both teams await the foul shot and a chance at possession.

optimistic about the team's chances.

“[It] will undoubtedly have an impact on how we play,” he said. “I feel confident that we will do a good job representing this command.”

Tiessen also said that he thought the game was a good warm-up for the

USAREUR championships since the team had not had a game in the two weeks prior. Tiessen said that even though the Neustadt team was very young, they were sound fundamentally and he is looking forward to a rematch soon.

# Green fees increase for some golfers beginning April 1

Special to the Bavarian News

Helping ensure Army golf courses stay on par with those in the civilian sector, IMCOM-E MWR is scheduled to adjust greens fees April 1.

Fee adjustments at Army golf courses will mean increased greens fees for some golfers.

“Golf is a program area that requires a relatively high level of revenue to

adequately operate and meet or exceed customer expectations,” said Dave Mattingly, IMCOM-Europe MWR Business Programs chief.

He said greens fees at golf courses across the Army have not kept pace with the costs necessary to maintain and invest in the program.

Daily and weekend greens fees will now be the same at all 18-hole Army

golf courses in Europe. The greatest increase will be \$4 for daily and \$6 for weekend greens fees; E6 and above will now pay \$17 greens fees on a weekday and \$23 on a weekend. Junior enlisted will see fees go up \$2, to \$13 on weekdays and \$17 on weekends.

Prices for youth golfers will go down. Golfers age 16 years of age and younger will pay \$8 daily greens fees and \$10 weekend greens fees under

the new fee structure— down from the current \$11 and \$15.

For regular golfers who want to save by paying annual greens fees, prices will increase by \$5 to \$250 for junior enlisted (E1-5); the annual family fee for junior enlisted will be \$350.

Annual greens fees for golfers E6 and above will be \$550, or a \$750 family fee.

# Sports Briefs

## Bowling tourney scheduled at Graf

Through Saturday: Sign up at the Grafenwoehr Bowling Center. Top finishers in the tournament will earn a spot on the Graf bowling teams and represent garrison at the IMCOM-E bowling championship April 18-20 in Schweinfurt.

Open to all active duty Soldiers, ID cardholders 18 or older. Format: singles, men's and women's divisions, nine-game sweeper scratch score.

Entry Fee: \$18 per bowler, rules meeting Saturday at 10:30 a.m.; bowling starts at 11 a.m.

## Youth sports coaches wanted

Volunteer coaches are needed for the upcoming CYS spring sports season.

Baseball, softball, and soccer seasons run from April to June. Contact Central Registration in Vilseck at DSN 476-2760 or Grafenwoehr at DSN 475-6656.

## Registration now open for softball

Through March 31: Register for men and women community level softball league at the Physical Fitness Center Bldg. 170 (Graf), Rose Barracks Fitness Center (Vilseck), or contact Mike Bradfish DSN 475-9024 or Carl Booth DSN 476-2214.

## Graf racquetball invitational slated

Saturday: Memorial Fitness Center, Bldg. 170 (Vilseck). For more information, contact Tony Lee (Graf DSN 475-7576) or Carl Boothe (Vilseck, DSN 476-2214/2998).

## Body building competition set

Register through April 14: Competition held April 14. Final registration, April 14 from 9-11 a.m.

Entry fee \$20/20 Euro. Spectator fee \$2. For more information, call Tony Brown DSN 476-2214 or CIV 09662-83-2214.

## Ski trips offered

Check out the great ski trips at ODR. Call Grafenwoehr, DSN 475-7402 or Vilseck, DSN 476-2563.

April 13-15: Ski Trip to Stubaital, Austria

Every Saturday: Arber Trip

## Youth bowling league playing

Every Saturday at 11 a.m. Bring the whole family to the Vilseck Bowling Center! For more info, call DSN 476-2576.

## Personalized yoga classes available

Vilseck classes are at the Rose Barracks Fitness Center: “Yoga for All”, Mondays 2-3 p.m.; prenatal yoga, Fridays 2-3:15 p.m.; postpartum yoga, Fridays 3:30-4:45 p.m.; and yoga, Fridays 5:15-6:15 p.m. For information, call DSN 476-2998.

Grafenwoehr classes are at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center: yoga Mondays 10-11:15 a.m., “Yoga for All”, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11:15 a.m.; prenatal yoga, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.; and postpartum yoga, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2:15 p.m. For information, call DSN 475-9007.



# Grills sold at AAFES shops recalled, pose safety hazards

Continued From Page 1

Only the following product names and model numbers are included in this recall:

Product Name/Model Numbers

- GenesisR E-320T 3751001; 3757001; 3758001; 3851001
- GenesisR S-320T 3780001; 3880001
- GenesisR EP-320T 3751301; 3752301; 3757301; 3758301; 3851301
- GenesisR ESP-320T 3750101; 3750201; 3850101
- GenesisR CEP-320T (Sold in Canada Only) 3751701; 3752701; 3851701

Sold at: AAFES, Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Home Centers, Tru-Serve, Do-It Best, and other home improvement and hardware stores nationwide from November 2006 through February 2007.

Instructions for Consumers: Consumers should stop using the gas grill immediately and contact Weber-Stephen to obtain a free replacement gas hose and schedule a free installation by calling toll-free at (866) 249-3237 between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the company's recall Web site at <http://www.weberrecall.com>.

# Credit card use eyed at stores

Continued From Page 1

the signature on the back of the card against your signature on the receipt and your photo ID," said Litch. "What they'll do is look at the signature on the back of the card, swipe it, and that's it."

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the cost of credit and charge card fraud—to cardholders and card companies alike—may be as high as \$500 million a year.

Unfortunately, everyone ends up paying for card fraud in increased cost of merchandise.

Litch said there have been cases locally in which purchase have been made by unauthorized users and the authorized cardholder has refuted the wrongful charges, leaving AAFES to foot the bill. These "charge backs" cost AAFES, and ultimately shoppers, in raised prices. Litch explained that when a card is stolen, it is possible for the thief to make unauthorized purchases on that card until the card is cancelled by the owner.

And although most cases of unauthorized card use on post is not due to theft, it can happen. Some people feel safer and become more lax using their credit cards on a military installation. This, said Litch, is a common misconception.

"There are criminals working everywhere," he said. "You've got professionals out there. You've got people on post who try (to commit credit card fraud). The safest thing to do is to sign your card. Take the risk away."

The major credit card companies' No. 1 recommendation for protecting against fraud is to sign your credit card immediately. Because the credit card is not valid until it has been signed, it helps sales clerks determine whether or not the person in possession of the card is the owner.

"The Army has all kinds of financial education classes, but not very much on credit cards," said Litch. "To protect us and to help us protect consumers, we're just trying to educate people."

## Craddock visits Graf

Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, receives a briefing on the progress of housing construction on Netzaberg from Thomas E. Hays, Acting Chief, DPW, USAG Grafenwoehr, during his visit to Grafenwoehr March 7.



Photo by Susanne Bartsch



Welch, Sharp, and Smith line up for a six-mile run Feb. 27.

# Smith named RSS's ultimate Survivor

Continued From Page 1

These Soldiers became the Schiffbruechige, or castaways that would return, in the end, to vote for the Ultimate Survivor. After weeks of what some RSS Soldiers called physical torture, the team competition evolved into individual competition.

By Week 16 there were only three competitors remaining - 38-year-old, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Benjamin Welch; Pfc. David Smith, 21; and Capt. Tim Sharp, 40.

The three men met for the final challenge, Feb. 27, in a competition to do the most sit-ups, and push-ups in the given time of six minutes per exercise and then race to complete a six mile run.

And before the sun had risen in the morning sky, the three was down to two.

Welch completed the competition in first place, with 117 push-ups, 93 sit-ups and a time of 46 minutes and 19 seconds.

Smith followed in second place and Sharp in a close third.

The following day, the Schiffbruechiges (Castaways) met for the final "Tribal Council" to vote for the RSS Ultimate Survivor.

One by one, the Castaways wrote down the name of the Soldier they though most deserving of the title, and one by one, Phillips pulled the names from the ballot box, revealing the names.

In a close vote, Smith was chosen as the winner, and though he didn't win a million dollars, as Survivors do on the television series, Smith won the respect of his battle buddies in the 2SCR Support Squadron.

As for the next Survivor Competition, which will begin in April, Phillips said that it will attempt to answer two age-old questions:

- Are enlisted Soldiers better at PT than officers?
- Are younger Soldiers better at PT than older Soldiers?

Stay tuned to find out.

# 3747th welcomes new commander

Continued From Page 4

His military education includes The Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance courses and the Lance Missile, Nuclear Chemical Targeting Analysis and Battalion Fire Direction Officer courses.

"You come with a reputation of excellence, and caring for Soldiers, and their units and theirs families" said Perkins "And no doubt that that reputation will continue to live on here in the 3747<sup>th</sup> MFTB-E."

Jones also holds a civilian position with the U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg as the Deputy Director of Emergency Services.

He said to the Soldiers that "as always, you look wonderful. You are doing a great job, and I look forward to work with you."

As Gray handed over command of the 3747<sup>th</sup> MFTB-E to Jones, he said, "I leave you with a great organization and my best wishes for success. I am confident that the Soldiers will support you as they did me."

# City of Lights a year-round adventure

Continued From Page 14

complete their been-there, done-that in Paris checklist.

## French cuisine

Another item to must check-off activity is indulging in French cuisine. If you have ever tried it, then you know that the food is reason enough to visit. If there is one thing you will never forget about Paris, it is the taste of a freshly baked croissant purchased at the local bakery. There is absolutely no comparing an authentic French butter croissant to any other croissant in the world. The delicate layers simply melt in your mouth.

The French have mastered the art of fine dining. Their cuisine is considered some of the world's most refined. Visitors can savor gourmet selections of cheese, chocolate, wine, and seafood. Meals range from very basic—a traditional baguette with cheese and inexpensive wine—to extravagant meals involving half a dozen courses and fine wines consumed over several hours.

No visit to Paris would be complete without at least one meal in a fine restaurant. It may be a little expensive, but if you choose the dinner specials or go during lunchtime, you can enjoy the same great quality at half the price.

It is not uncommon for the French to take a two-hour lunch break, so don't be surprised to see Parisians enjoying an extended lunch and wine in a local bistro.

## Style, style, style

From haute couture and luxury stores around the Opera House, one of the most



The beautiful Montmartre is one of Paris' most famous landmarks.

expensive areas of the city, to affordable brands and appealing boutiques, there are shops to tempt every pocketbook.

Any variety of small boutiques, charming galleries, and chocolate stores are hidden on the narrow streets on and around Ile de la Cité, and are another way to explore the city all over again.

Even window shopping is a pleasure in Paris, as seductive window displays stimulate the senses and invite you to discover the very essence of French style.

## Paris—all year long

As the old song says, Paris is at its best in the springtime, even if it is a little wet. While

April in Paris sounds romantic, there are an innumerable number of cultural events taking place in the fall and winter.

While tourists throng to the city year round, many Parisians travel south for the summer. It is a great city wherever you choose to visit, but be prepared for changing weather, and always have an umbrella on hand.

The temperamental weather is part of the city's charm. After all, what is more enjoyable than escaping a rain shower only to end up in a cozy café over a mousse au chocolat and café au lait?

Whatever, whenever, however you decided to explore, Paris will leave you craving for more.

# What happens once life goals are accomplished?

Continued From Page 2

19 years of marriage. Then she allegedly loaded her car with pepper spray, a BB-gun, a new steel mallet, a knife and rubber tubing and drove 900 miles to confront another astronaut involved in a love triangle.

Granted, Nowak is the only astronaut ever charged with attempted murder. But is she the only astronaut ever to lose herself after achieving her life's ambition? It makes me wonder more about those other astronauts. How do they shift from their glory days into other jobs? It makes me wonder about military retirees who find their way from flying helicopters and walking the decks and commanding platoons to working for SAIC and Northrop Grumman and writing code in a cubicle. How do they do it? How long does it take? Is there any way to make it easier, or is it just something you go through without popping up on the cover of People magazine?

In the movie, Inigo Montoya gets the lucky break. He is offered a swell new gig as the Dread Pirate Roberts. Inigo gets to ride off on a white horse and swashbuckle all he wants and cover himself with riches — wish there were a few more jobs like the Dread Pirate Roberts floating around.

A 19-year military spouse, Jacey Eckhart is a nationally syndicated columnist with CinCHouse.com and the host of "The Jacey Eckhart Show for Military Families" ([www.cinchouse.com/jacey](http://www.cinchouse.com/jacey)).